

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

A1 [0007] The present invention provides a housing for a bicycle shifter. The housing includes first and second housing elements. The first housing element has an installation opening and the second housing element includes a closure member for covering the installation opening ~~that may be covered or closed with a closure member~~. In contrast to the existing art, the housing of the present invention does not include a separate part for the closure member rather the closure member is integral with ~~at least one~~ the second housing element. Such a configuration allows the closure member and the second housing element to be produced with the same tool and in the same operation. Additionally, an integral configuration eliminates the installation of the closure member and tolerances relating to the position of the closure member relative to the housing element and relative to the installation opening.

Please replace the paragraph [0008] with the following amended paragraph:

A2 [0008] Bicycle shifter housings are generally made of a plastic material whose shaping is accomplished in an injection-molding process. According to the present invention, the shape, contour or wall thickness of the second housing element ~~closure member~~ which includes the closure member ~~housing~~ are immaterial. According to one embodiment of the present invention, however, the second housing element ~~closure member~~ has a substantially planar configuration such as a substantially flat surface or a three-dimensional curved surface. According to another embodiment of the present invention, the second housing element ~~closure member~~ exhibits a substantially constant thickness over its entire surface. When the second housing element ~~closure member~~ has a substantially planar configuration and a substantially constant thickness over its entire surface, costs of tool design and production are reduced.

Please replace the paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

A3 [0009] The type of material used to make the second housing element ~~closure member~~ is not essential to the invention. However, preferably the second housing element ~~closure member~~ is made of a thermoplastic material that can be processed by the injection-molding method. According to one embodiment of the present invention, the second housing element ~~closure member~~ is made of any material that may exhibit mechanical properties ranging from viscoplastic to hard-rubber. The advantage of manufacturing the second housing element ~~closure member~~ from any properties ranging from viscoplastic to hard-rubber is that the demands of stability and rigidity placed on the shifter are met while still having a certain resilience needed for opening and closing the closure member.

Please replace the paragraph [0016] with the following amended paragraph:

A4 [0016] The number of parts the housing includes is not essential to the invention. The housing may only include one single housing part with includes the closure member. Preferably, the housing includes first and second housing elements wherein the second housing element includes the closure member ~~possesses, in addition to the closure member, at least one second housing element~~. The second housing element ~~closure member~~ is connected to the first ~~second~~ housing element by an insertion device, catch device or snap device. The first ~~second~~ housing element may be manufactured from a particularly rigid or impact-resistant material, whereas the closure member and a portion of the second housing element may be produced from a viscoplastic to hard-rubber material that meets the requirements of the closure member. Preferably, the insertion device, catch device or snap device detachably joins the second housing element ~~closure member~~ with the first housing element. As a result, the closure member can be completely separated from the first ~~second~~ housing element when, for example, if access to the actuation mechanism becomes necessary for a repair or in order to lubricate the transfer mechanism of the actuation device.

Please replace the paragraph [0022] with the following amended paragraph:

A5 [0022] In one embodiment of the present invention, the ~~closure member 16~~ first housing element 12 is joined to ~~[[a]]~~ the second housing element 14 by an insertion device, catch device or snap device 24. The assembly direction of the device 24 may extend perpendicular to the drawing plane. The insertion device, catch device, or snap device 24 can be configured detachably so that the second housing element 14 and the closure member 16 can be completely removed, for example for the purpose of servicing the shifter mechanism (not shown) accommodated in the shifter housing.